



Minutes for the Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families

Thursday, 11 June 2019: Government Office Building; 6751 Gateway Drive

Columbia, Maryland 21046

ATTENDANCE: Members: Jonathan K. Branch, Robert Lowell, J. Greg Jolissaint, Steve Bolen, Janice Agazio, Reg Avery, Craig Porterfield, Bob Moore, Michael Blum, Lisa Terry, Howard Mooney **Guests:** Yale Stenzler, Tom Glenn, Bob Pelletier, Nathan Jones, Ed Hall, Lou Schott, Michael Griggs, Cecily Christian, Raul E. Rosas (Commissioner: MVC) and Rohini Gupta

Howard opened the meeting at 7:00pm. Invited guests and presenters were recognized. The May commission meetings minutes were reviewed and adopted. Reg motioned to approve the May minutes, Greg seconded. The motion passed. Future commission meeting date is September 5th, then October 3rd. The commission has a summer break in July and August.

Howard addressed commission vacancies. Lisa said that Jennifer Anthony, an Air Force Veteran will be appointed in July. The administration wants to put out a press release concerning the vacancies. Craig provided an update on the Veterans Small Business Certification.

Update on planning board meeting for Veterans Monument. Howard, Wanda and Bob Gillette. No opposition to the monument, so we are "free and clear." We now need to raise money. Lisa mentioned the ground breaking of the Neighborhood Square, which will be named after Vivian Bailey.

Howard reminded the commission that June 27 is National PTSD Awareness Day. Nathan mentioned that veterans deal with PTSD on a "daily basis!" Lisa also mentioned John Way's Mental Health First Aid class on June 19th.

Ed registered the commission for the Clarksville July 4th Parade. Ed reviewed the lineup of the parade.

Ed also reviewed items concerning the Joint Military Coordinating Committee. Stated that Memorial Day was a "landmark day for Veterans in Howard County". Over \$8500 was collected for the VSOs through poppy sales at Lowes and Ace Hardware stores. He also mentioned that over 40 veterans were recruited into some VSOs. Ed also reviewed the ceremony at the Harriet Tubman School and also the American Legion Honor Flight Event. Col. Schott and Ed met with the school board to seek a waiver so that students can attend Boy's State.

Howard stated that there was no additional information about a July 4 celebration sponsored by the Inner Arbor Trust. Mike said that they have had six additional businesses to the Veteran Friendly

Business Program. Howard stated there are eight businesses displaying veteran designated parking spaces.

The American Legion will have a tent set up at the fairgrounds on August 3rd at the Howard County Fair. Ed encouraged groups to come out and support their causes.

Howard asked if we started planning for Veterans Day presentations yet. Ed suggested that we go to school board meetings to present, regarding this program. Reg suggested that we contact PTAC.

Howard reviewed the Annual Veterans Day parade. The route has not been determined yet according to Ed. It will be in Columbia. Ed also asked people to think about the Grand Marshall for the parade. Ed said he would like to see a "citizen soldier" as the grand marshal.

Nathan stated that the VA introduced an initiative called the Mission Act which is supposed to give veterans quicker access to health care.

Janice mentioned that she served as a judge for the students Simulated Congressional Hearings.

Steve mentioned John Way's Mental Health First Aid class. Steve also volunteered to work on legislative affairs for the commission.

Rohini Gupta, a guest from the library made a presentation about paper making with uniforms and creative writing programs at the libraries aimed at veterans.

Howard mentioned the "homework assignments" for the summer breaks. Lisa mentioned that the Howard County Times was looking for WWII veterans to interview.

Distinguished Service Awards and Certificates from the County Executive were presented by Greg, Bob L. and Raul Rosas to Janice Agazio and Howard Mooney for their service to the Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families. Their terms have come to an end.

Raul mentioned that the commission should look at a parcel of land in Howard County where a veteran's home could be built.

Open meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

The following decisions were made during the closed meeting:

J. Greg Jolissaint elected Chairman

Jonathan K. Branch elected Co-Chairman

Minutes submitted by: Jonathan K. Branch